December 7, 2000

5407 '01 MAR 19 P3:54

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing to you as a private citizen deeply concerned about the humane and civilized treatment of animals in research and product testing laboratories. I would like to respectfully urge you to help expedite the process of validating alternative, non-animal tests for regulatory acceptance.

Many tests not involving animals are available today. Reliable, replicatable alternatives exist to replace eye and skin irritancy tests and acute-toxicity tests, to name just a few. These tests are often cheaper, faster, and more predictive of human response than the outdated, often inaccurate, inconsistent and horribly cruel whole-animal tests they are designed to replace. Some involve exposing a product to a complex mixture of chemicals; others involve testing products on cultured human cells, or predicting a response based upon the analysis of chemical structure and chemical mechanisms (often using computer modeling and synthesis procedures). Some use combinations or specified sets of tests.

Many consumer products, chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers have developed and are developing new non-animal tests, as are new biotechnology firms. Validation and acceptance by regulatory agencies such as yours are vital, however, to their continued efforts. I respectfully request you and the FDA do everything possible, as a concerned consumer and taxpayer, to streamline and facilitate the validation and acceptance process for non-animal testing.

Thank you for your time and courtesy in reviewing this letter.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Whitenton

Linda J. Whitenton
1906 Glynda Drive
Marietta, GA 30062
Email: lwhitenton@earthlink.net

C 3104

SSP-0485

Whitenton
1906 Glynda Drive
Marietta, GA 30062

8B45

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857